(Commodities) Act against mose indulging in illegal practices such as hoarding, blackmarketing etc. of these fertilizers.

Durgapur Unit of H.F.C.

2181. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of CHEMICAL} AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Durgapur Fertilizer Unit ot Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation cannot be restarted because of Rs. 45 crore only;

(b) if so, reasons why the funds cannot be diverted/allocated by the Ministry as loan from KRIBHCO and IFFCO with guarantee from Government;

(c) whether subsidies are recoverable from some private companies on account of non reporting of nameplate capacities; and

(d) if so, why the same cannot be recovered and used for revival of Dur gapur and other units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) and (b) Sustained operations of Durgapur unit are not feasible unless a complete revamp of the plant is undertaken. Hence, it will be possible to consider the resumption of production of Durgapur Unit only it terms of the final decision of the Government on the revival of Hin dustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd.

(c) and (d) The Government is aware of the high capacity utilisation being attained by some of the urea manufacturing units. The Government is seized of the complexities of the issues involved and the need to take a balanced and holistic view of the matter.

Feed-stock policy for fertilizer units

2182. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: SHRI MD SALIM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the present feed-stock policy of Government for new fertilizer units;

(b) whether clearance for NAPHTHA-based fertilizers are not being given;

(c) whether Government are thinking of using coal as feedstock in view of the shortage of gas and oil in the country;

(d) if so, the steps taken to revive coal based fertilizer plants at Ramagundam and Talcher; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) Natural gas is the preferred feedstock for the manufacture of nitrogenous fertilizers. However, owing to non-availability of natural gas in adequate quantity, fertilizer plants using other feedstocks such as naphtha have been allowed by the Government. To supplement the feedstock requirement, some plants have been set up with dual or mixed feedstock facility.

(b) and (c) The High Powered Committee on the "Fertilizer Pricing Policy" has recommended that the viability of the coal-based technology for fertilizer plants should be further investigated. In view of the limited availability of natural gas, the general feedstock policy of the Government is being evolved.

(d) and (e) A comprehensive rehabilitation proposal of FCI on consideration of unit-wise viability including Ramagundam and Talcher unit is presently under Inter-Ministerial consultation.